

Report on Finance & Policy Committee Meeting
Held 10th October 2013 at 7.00pm
At the Council Chamber, Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major

PRESENT: Chairman – Councillor E Williams

Councillors; Mr G John
Mr M Mason
Mr M Marsh
Mrs S Hanks
Mr E Hacker
Mr J Evans
Mr K Geary

1) Apologies were tendered on behalf of;
Councillor Mr R Jenkins
Councillor Mrs P Lancaster
Councillor Mrs A Knight
Councillor Mrs S Geary
Councillor Mr G Ingram

2) Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on the 13th June 2013

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 13th June 2013. Noted.

3) Discuss Expenditure and Income Figures up to 30th September 2013

Committee members had previously been circulated with expenditure and income budget sheets up to 30th September 2013.

Expenditure

Councillor K Geary queried the Town Mayors expenses as he kept a breakdown of his expenditure at home and it was not the same figure as on the sheets. Councillor Williams informed members that the Town Mayors expenses were a bit of an anomaly, it ran for the term of Mayor, and not 1st April to 31st March as all other budgets. The Town Clerk assured members that she kept an individual record of Town Mayors expenses. If anyone ever wanted a copy they were available.

Councillor Evans asked what the 'others' budget of £6,000 was for. Councillor Williams replied it was to cover the possible footpath compensation.

Income

Councillor John expressed concern that the Town Hall figures were down on the budget. Councillor Williams replied that unfortunately it was down slightly, but all the other categories were above their budgets. Councillor John asked the Town Clerk did she think the Town Hall was down due to the hiring fees? The Town Clerk assured members she did not think so, it was more a case of access issues and the lack of decent toilet and kitchen facilities.

Committee members noted both the Expenditure and Income figures.

4) Discuss Five Year Plan and proposed expenditure for Year 3 (2014/15)

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Five Year Plan.

Year 3 – 14/15

Councillor Williams informed Committee members that the Five Year Plan committee had met and discussed suggestions brought forward by individual Councillors, Full Town Council or other Committees. They had discussed each individual suggestion and the majority of them had been included in the Year 3 of the Plan. Councillor Williams asked members if they were happy with the items included, as the next step for the 5 Year Plan committee was to meet again, look at all the monthly outgoings for each budget category, as well as Year 3 of the Plan and produce budget figures and a possible precept request 2014/15.

Councillor Hacker informed members that at the last Full Town Council meeting under the agenda item Miri Meiri Garden, he had suggested that there was a possible solution for the area and he would report back. Since then he and Councillor Evans had met with a local contractor and obtained a verbal quotation for the proposed works. The works involved would be pushing back the existing fencing and levelling the ground. Councillor Evans added that a small retaining wall would then be built, level the ground, place top soil and install a new fence. The verbal quote had been for approximately £3,000. Councillor Hacker concluded by asking if monies were available either this year or next year to cover the cost of this works.

Councillor Williams stated that it had not been budgeted into the figures for this current financial year and at present it was not in Year 3 of the Plan. A discussion took place where it was agreed that this item needed further discussion at a Recreation and Buildings meeting to see if Councillors were in favour of the proposed works.

RESOLVED: That this item be discussed at the next Recreation and Buildings Committee meeting, and subject to agreement, the financial side be looked at in the Finance and Policy meeting schedule for 16th January 2014.

Committee members queried the item 'Notice board/sign for allotments'. The Town Clerk explained this item had come out of the last Five Year Plan meeting, where it had been suggested a sign be purchased and placed by the gate of the allotments so that residents and tenants were aware of ownership and contact details. This had then lead to a discussion concerning the lack of a notice board in the North Ward and it was recommended that a new notice board/sign be installed. It was also discussed that with all the new proposed signage the Town Council look at the CASH Grant next year to help fund these signs. This was just a suggestion and would obviously need further discussion at a Full Town Council meeting.

5) Current Bank accounts

Committee members were circulated with up to date Bank Account balances. Noted.

6) Date of next Finance Meeting

The date of the next Finance meeting be set for 16th January 2014